

What is claimed is:

- 1 ✓ 1. A method of operating a vending machine, comprising:
2 receiving a payment;
3 receiving a product selection;
4 → offering an information item;
5 receiving a destination address;
6 dispensing a product indicated by the product selection; and
7 transmitting the information item to a location specified by the received
8 destination address.
- 1 ✓ 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the information item before
2 said offering step. *what happened to the offering step? if info has already been selected?*
- 1 ✓ 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said selecting the information item is based on
2 the received product selection.
- 1 ✓ 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said payment is received in the form of
2 currency.
- 1 ✓ 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said product selection is received via a push
2 button on the vending machine.
- 1 ✓ 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said offering occurs before said receiving the
2 payment.
- 1 ✓ *rule 83* 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said offering occurs after said dispensing.
- 1 ✓ *rule 83* 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing change only if said
2 information item is not accepted.

- 1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the information item is a video recording.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the information item is an audio recording.
- 1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the product is one of a beverage and a snack.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination address is an e-mail address.
- 1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said offering includes displaying a notice at
2 said vending machine.
- 1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting said information item at
2 said vending machine.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said information item is an audio recording
2 and said presenting includes audibly reproducing said information item at said vending
3 machine.
- 1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein said information item is a video recording and
2 said presenting includes displaying said information item at said vending machine.
- 1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein said offering includes presenting a menu of
2 information items to a customer at the vending machine.
- 1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein said presenting includes displaying said menu
2 of information items on a display device.
- 1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein said display device is a touch screen.
- 1 20. The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting a customer to enter the
2 destination address.

1 21. The method of claim 1, wherein said offering includes stating a price for the
2 information item.

22. A method of operating a vending machine, comprising:

- offering a first product and a first information item as a first package for a first price;
- offering a second product and a second information item as a second package for a second price;
- receiving a selection of one of said first package and said second package;
- receiving a payment;
- receiving a destination address;
- dispensing the first product and transmitting the first information item to a location specified by the received destination address if the first package was selected;
- and
- dispensing the second product and transmitting the second information item to a location specified by the received destination address if the second package was selected.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the first price is the same as the second price.

1 24. The method of claim 22, wherein the first and second products are beverages.

1 25. The method of claim 22, wherein the first and second products are snacks.

1 26. The method of claim 22, wherein the first and second information items are
2 audio recordings.

1 27. The method of claim 22, wherein the first and second information items are
2 video recordings.

1 28. A vending system, comprising:

2 payment means for receiving a payment;
3 selection means for receiving a product selection;
4 offer means for offering an information item;
5 input means for receiving a destination address;
6 dispensing means, responsive to the payment means and the selection means,
7 for dispensing a product indicated by the product selection;
8 transmitting means for transmitting the information item to a location specified
9 by the received destination address; and
10 a front panel on which the selection means and the offer means are installed.

1 29. The vending system of claim 28, wherein the offer means includes a display
2 which displays a notice concerning the information item.

1 30. The vending system of claim 28, wherein the input means includes a keyboard.

1 31. The vending system of claim 28, wherein the input means includes a touch
2 screen.

1 32. The vending system of claim 28, wherein the selection means includes a push
2 button.

1 33. The vending system of claim 28, wherein the payment means includes at least
2 one of a coin acceptor and a bill acceptor.

1 34. *XXX* A method of operating a vending machine, comprising:
2 receiving a payment;
3 receiving a product selection;
4 offering an information item;
5 receiving an acceptance of the information item;
6 dispensing a product indicated by the product selection; and

7 transmitting the information item to a handheld device located in proximity to
8 the vending machine.

1 (35.) A vending system, comprising:
2 payment means for receiving a payment;
3 selection means for receiving a product selection;
4 offer means for offering an information item;
5 input means for receiving an acceptance of the information item;
6 dispensing means, responsive to the payment means and the selection means,
7 for dispensing a product indicated by the product selection;
8 transmitting means, responsive to the input means, for transmitting the
9 information item to a hand-held device in proximity to the vending machine; and
10 a front panel on which the selection means and the offer means are installed.

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